

**Morgantown Parking Authority
Minutes for Regular Monthly Meeting
3:00 PM Wednesday, January 13, 2016
Public Safety Building Conference Room**

Present: Chairman Charlie McEwuen, Vice Chair Jeanne Hagan, Dennis Bidwell, and Director Tom Arnold

Not Present: Wes Nugent and Shane Mardis

Others Present: Barbara Watkins (Main Street Morgantown) and Hilary Greenberg (Consultant for Main Street Morgantown)

Call to Order: Chairman McEwuen called the Meeting to order at 3:07 PM

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes for the December 9, 2015 meeting were approved with Motion by Dennis Bidwell and second by Jeanne Hagan and unanimous approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Restaurant Delivery Driver Parking – Director Arnold reported that he has been working with Jamie Craig on permits for his commercial tenants. Their discussion did get to the delivery drivers that are taking prime parking on High Street. Mr. Craig stated that he would like to talk with fellow property owners in the Downtown about reserving parking in off street lots and that cost should be rolled in the lease agreements for the businesses that have delivery.

This concept would take the pressure off trying to word ordinances and the enforcement. The Authority was very positive about the possibilities that this approach to the problem does present. Chairman McEwuen asked the Director to talk with City Attorney about what can the Authority Enforcement keep those drivers in the designated area for delivery drivers.

Replacing On Street Parking Meters – The Director discussed exploring the possibilities of putting the multi-space kiosks on High and Walnut instead of using individual meters. This would be more expensive for equipment but would be more customer friendly as well as increase the turnover rate for the spaces. The Authority wanted the staff to further explore the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Hilary Greenberg a consultant for Main Street Morgantown came to the Authority meeting to discuss how parking is administered in Morgantown. She had met with businesses in the Downtown and wanted to get an understanding how the Parking Authority program addresses different problems.

Ms. Greenberg was impressed with the fact that the Authority was working with property owners to park the employees in their buildings. She asked why we charge for parking on Sunday and she was informed that there is no enforcement on Sunday. Also the Authority cannot advertise free parking due to construction bonds covenants.

Can the MPA do more information sharing with business in the Downtown? It was determined that there was a need for the Authority to get more information out to the community through Main Street's "On The Town" publication. There was discussion on how technology helps promote parking in Downtowns.

Ms. Greenberg asked if the rate on the street would ever go up to deter the present problems with turnover. She was informed that has been tried in the past with stiff opposition. She said there is a need for the opposition to be informed that this does have to be implemented to clear parking for prospective customers.

Taxi Service in the City Limits – Director Arnold informed the Authority that another taxi service, Motown Taxi, has started service in the City of Morgantown. The City Manager is asking for the Authority's recommendation on where to establish a taxi stand in the Downtown. The Authority discussed that the taxi stand should be located in one area that would be accessible by both taxi companies. The Authority on a motion by Dennis Bidwell and seconded by Jeanne Hagan: The Parking Authority recommends that a single area be established on a Downtown street for both taxi companies use in the evenings. The motion passed by the vote 3-0.

November 2015 Budget Performance Report – The Authority is pleased with the revenue and the budget performance through the first quarter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM

Parking Authority Chairman

Parking Authority Director